



Water Security Planning Act Update

Water Leaders Workshop

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Water Security Planning Act

Will transform and reinvigorate regional water planning in New Mexico.

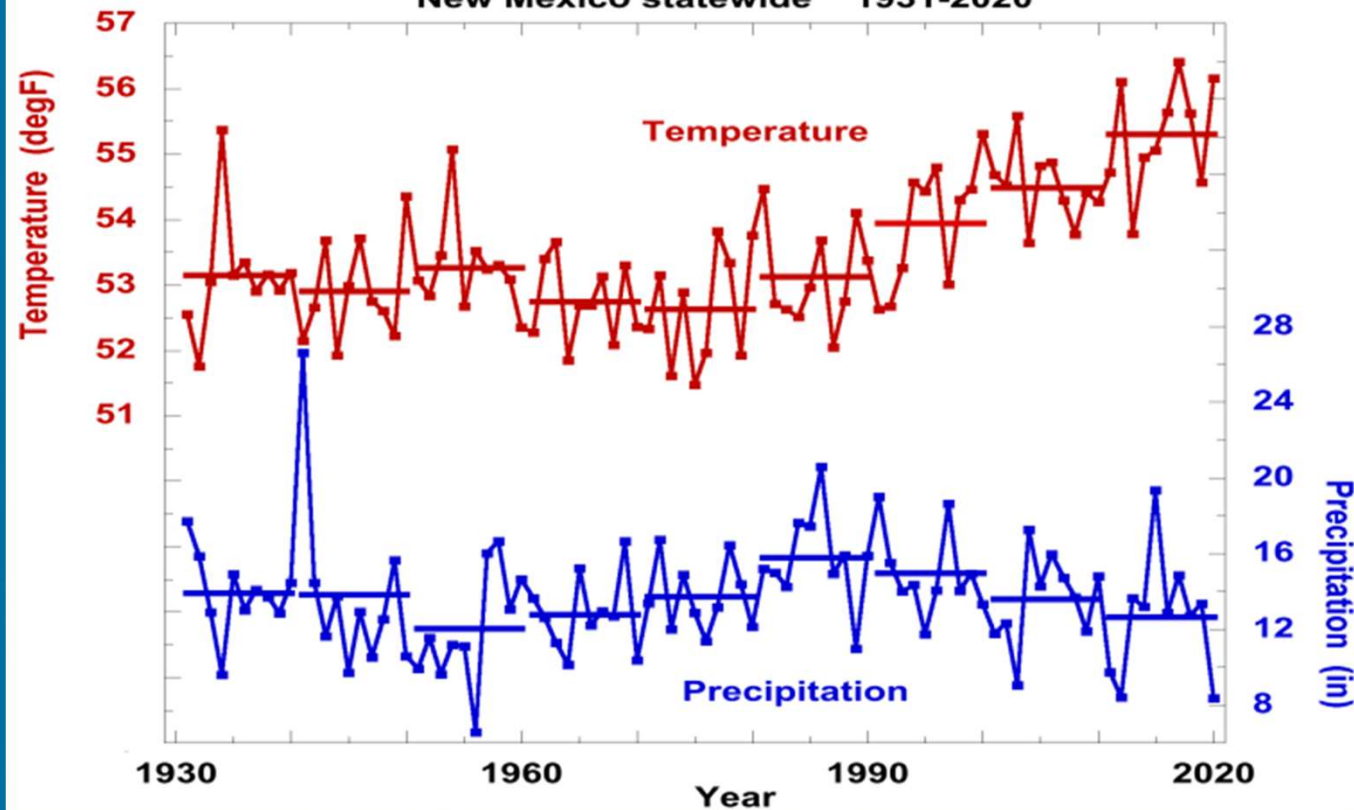
New statute requires that regional water planning will:

- Ensure scientific integrity through the best available data, science and models
- Support implementation through prioritization of projects and activities, and reporting mechanisms for decision-makers
- Build on and incorporate existing planning efforts, and not be redundant
- Be grounded in state water law, including respecting existing water rights and the doctrine of prior appropriation
- Be informed by an advisory council for taking into account tribal sovereignty, tribal water rights, and the needs of tribal communities – Water Security Tribal Advisory Committee (WSTAC)
- Involve robust public engagement every step of the way

Implementation of effective solutions requires community engagement.

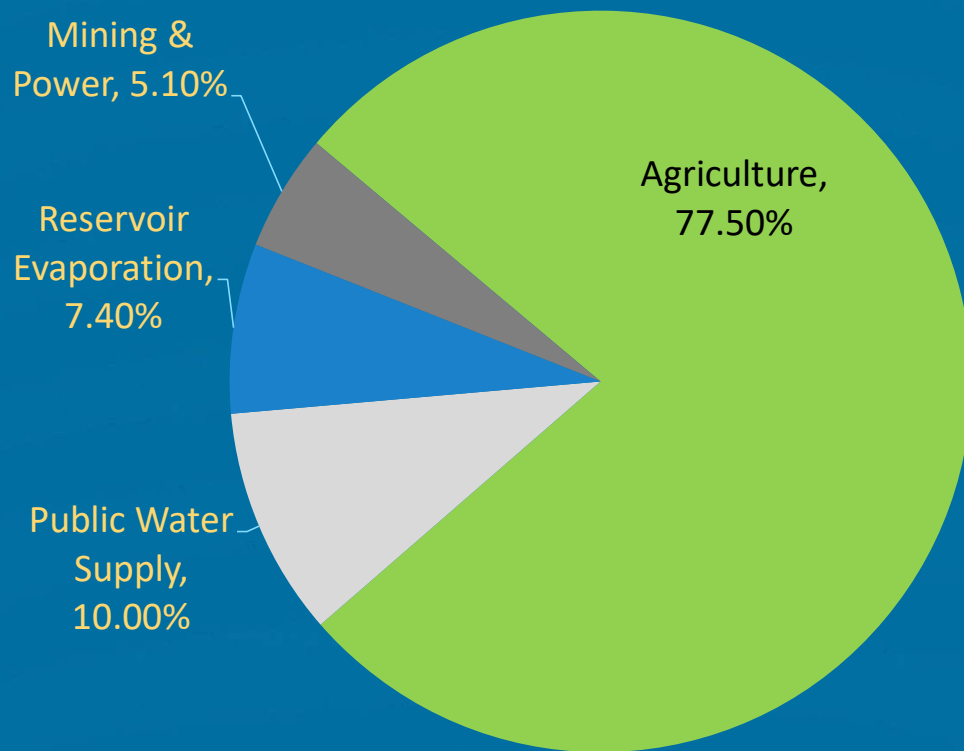
Following the Data = Drier/More Variable

Annual Average Observed Temperature and Precipitation
New Mexico statewide 1931-2020



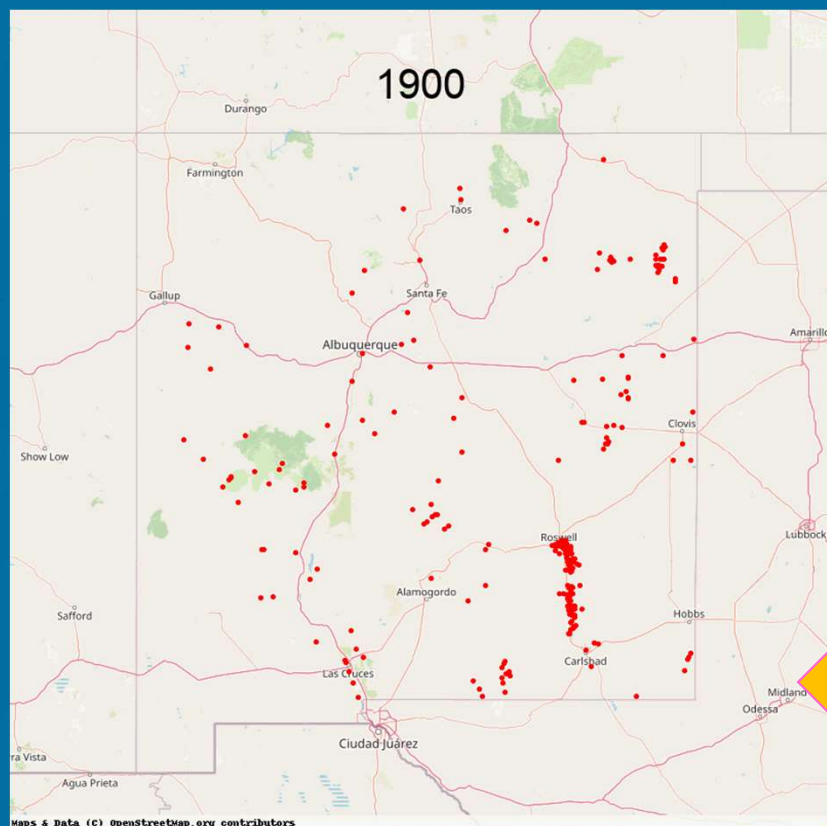
- Average temperatures are projected to increase 5-7° F in the coming 50 years
- Precipitation levels are expected to remain highly variable
- Precipitation patterns and snowmelt are expected to change

Water Use by Categories 2015



- Agriculture is the largest water user in New Mexico
- Evaporation rates are projected to increase
- Levels of groundwater use are not sustainable
- Interstate compacts and endangered species flow requirements exist

Groundwater Use In New Mexico



- Groundwater use is a new demand in the past 100 years
- Many communities in NM are entirely reliant on groundwater
- Recharge rates, already very low, are likely to decrease by more than 25% with projected changes

**Thank You Water
Data Act!**

Water Security Planning Act Implementation



**Early
2023**

Passage of the
Water Security
Planning Act



2024

Public & Tribal
Input
Create Water
Security Tribal
Advisory Council
(WSTAC)



**2025 -
2028**

Finalize Rules and
Guidelines Based
on Input &
Initiate Regional
Planning
WSTAC Ongoing



**2029 -
Beyond**

Iterative, Staggered
Regional Water
Planning
WSTAC Ongoing

Water Security Tribal Advisory Council WSTAC

a)

Interim Committee

Short-term committee comprised of water leaders and technical staff whose goal is to develop a framework for WSTAC. Membership and process are being coordinated with the NM Indian Affairs Department.

b)

Tribal Advisory Council

Initial steps for the Council will include providing input for rules and guidelines, consideration of tribal-specific rules and guidelines, determining ongoing role and process, and engaging in regional planning.

WSPA Implementation: Rules & Guidelines

Outreach & Input for Rules & Guidelines:

- Open-House events underway in all 16 existing water planning regions. Each event is the same.
- Events have stations with targeted questions about regional boundaries, stakeholders and leadership of regional water planning, goals for successful implementation, and more.
- All input opportunities are also going to be available online at mainstreamnm.org from June – mid-August in both English and Spanish.
- Input collected through this process will be the basis for proposed rules and guidelines.

Rule Promulgation & Guideline Adoption:

- Following the completion of online and open house input, the NMISC planning contractor will prepare a report summarizing the findings and making preliminary recommendations for potential rules and guidelines.
- NMISC staff & partners will develop proposed rules and guidelines and release them for additional input in advance of promulgation.
- Promulgation of Rules will begin this winter, with guideline adoption following upon completion.



Water Security Planning Act Open House Events



April 22: Region 13 – Estancia ✓

April 23: Region 1 – NE New Mexico ✓

April 24: Region 8 – Mora-San Miguel ✓



July 22: Region 15 – Socorro-Sierra

July 23: Region 4 – SW New Mexico

July 24: Region 11 – Lower Rio Grande



May 13: Region 9 – Colfax ✓

May 14: Region 14 – Rio Chama ✓

May 15: Region 3 – Jemez y Sangre ✓



August 5: Region 6 – NW New Mexico

August 6: Region 2 – San Juan

August 7: Region 12 – Middle Rio Grande

May 16: Region 7 – Taos ✓



June 10: Region 16 – Lea

June 11: Region 10 – Lower Pecos

June 12: Region 5 – Tularosa-Sacramento

Online feedback available for all New Mexicans starting on June 1, 2024.

Please visit our website, mainstreamnm.org for the latest updates.





Thank you!

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